

Senate Bill 351

By: Senators Unterman of the 45th, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Kirk of the 13th, McKoon of the 29th, Sims of the 12th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, so as to revise certain provisions related to advanced nursing practice; to revise a definition; to add certain powers to the Georgia Board of Nursing; to provide for expansion of roles and restrictions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 26 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to nurses, is amended in Code Section 43-26-5, relating to general powers and responsibilities of the board, by adding a new paragraph to read as follows:

"(12.1) Be authorized to enact rules and regulations for advanced practice registered nurses in their capacity as a licensed independent practitioner pursuant to Code Section 43-26-7.1 and certain exceptions in performing acts as authorized in Code Sections 43-34-23 and 43-34-25;"

**SECTION 2.**

Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"43-26-7.1.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'rural county' means a rural county in Georgia with a population of 50,000 or less according to the United States decennial census of 2010 or any future such census; provided, however, that for counties which contain a military base or installation, the military personnel and their dependents living in such county shall be excluded from the total population of such county for purposes of this definition.

(b) Any advanced practice registered nurse shall be eligible to engage as a licensed independent practitioner as provided for in this Code section if such advanced practice registered nurse is primarily employed in a rural county in this state. The board shall grant authority for any such licensed independent practitioner to order computed tomography

27 (CT) scans and to prescribe, procure, administer, dispense, and furnish pharmacological  
28 agents, including over-the-counter and controlled substances. Such licensed independent  
29 practitioner shall not be subject to the protocol agreement requirements under Code  
30 Sections 43-34-23 and 43-34-25.

31 (c) No advanced practice registered nurse shall act as a licensed independent practitioner  
32 or engage in any expansion of the authority granted under this Code section except when  
33 such advanced practice registered nurse is acting pursuant to the requirements of this Code  
34 section."

35 **SECTION 3.**

36 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.